



# Upper Goulburn Muster

The Newsletter of the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee

Vol 7. No 1

“UGIC”

March 2006



## The new look Muster.

### New masthead & new focus

#### Welcome to the new look Upper Goulburn Muster.

(Muster: assemble, collect, get together)

The masthead has been changed to reflect the Goulburn Broken CMA corporate identity and we will bring you more stories about what is happening in the Upper Goulburn this year.

The “Muster” gathers articles from across the catchment on issues and news that are important to landholders, community groups and our agency partners.

However its main focus is to highlight the Upper Goulburn

Implementation Committee (UGIC) and its work in implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy and its programs. However, we welcome submissions from the community and will happily publish stories and promote events.

Please contact Poppe Davis on Ph 5736 0108 to check deadlines.

This year the UGIC will run its first ever Environmental Education Expo in July. See the ad on p.4. and please let us know what you think of our new look.

### Member Profile

Mike Dalmau is the Deputy Chair of the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee (UGIC) and lives in Alexandra.

Mike is a past Councillor and Mayor of Murrindindi Shire and has a long history of working with Local Government and the private sector.

As a member of the UGIC he attends meetings every six weeks to discuss and determine actions that provide guidance for implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

Mike is also UGIC representative on the Waterway Working Group; a community link with the Goulburn Broken Waterways Team.

Mike has been a UGIC member since 1998.



## Soils ain't Soils

(From Draft Goulburn Broken Soil Health Strategy Summary)

At a recent joint meeting with the Mid Goulburn Broken Implementation Committee in Nagambie, the UGIC received a presentation on Soil Health.

The Goulburn Broken Soil Health Steering Committee was formed in 2002 to develop a draft Goulburn Broken Soil Health Strategy for the Goulburn Broken

Catchment Management Authority.

Some of the identified issues include, erosion, soil & water contaminants, soil biodiversity, sodicity, deterioration of structure, salinity and acidity.

The following is taken from a report on the impacts of

acid soils, prepared for the Dept of Primary Industry, the Goulburn Broken CMA and the North East CMA.

“Naturally acidic soils and acidifying soils generally occur in areas where rainfall exceeds 500mm/year, affecting some of the most productive agricultural land in Victoria. Go to p.3

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### Weeds go in King Parrot Creek Clean Up

A weed clearing program on the King Parrot Creek is underway with collaboration between the Landcare group, local landholders, the Rural Extension Program (REP) and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

The CMA is in its second year of a spray program targeting blackberry at public sites on both sides of the Creek and

has progressed very quickly with cooperation of adjacent landholders.

Willows and other introduced species have been poisoned by the CMA, and will be removed in areas adjacent to the King Parrot walking path.

The Strath Creek Landcare Group has assisted with clearing and revegetation at Moore’s Road Bridge Flowerdale and the public

reserve at Coonans Bridge.

Collin Tate from the CMA said the project will be completed early due to the level of local participation.

“ We will have completed removal of 6 km of willows and other weeds, and the sites will be revegetated before the end of the year.” Mr Tate said.

The Yea office has a new phone number. Ph 5736 0100.

THE UPPER GOULBURN MUSTER  
IS PREPARED FOR THE  
UPPER GOULBURN IMPLEMENTATION  
COMMITTEE.  
EDITOR  
POPPE M DAVIS  
PHONE 5736 0108  
SHOP 5, 10 HIGH STREET, YEA 3717  
EMAIL: [popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au)  
WEBSITE: [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

**FAQ**

*Get to Know...*

*Gary Fox—Waterways Supervisor.*

**Main job-** Upper Goulburn Waterway Works Supervisor

**Where-** All streams above Yea (Mansfield, Marysville, Alexandra, Woods Point)

**Based-** Yea GBCMA Office

**How did you get involved with NRM-** Background Fourth generation farming family in the Yarck area. Initial Landcare Technical Support Officer with DSE, working with UG Landcare Groups & the formation of the UG Catchment Collective (UGCC) and later employed as the UGCC Facilitator – leading onto tertiary education at RMIT studying Landscape Architecture and while studying spent 1 year in Broome WA at Beagle Bay Aboriginal Mission.

**Favourite colour -** Blue

**Favourite food -** Steak (home grown)

**Reading at the moment –** Listen to the land, Listen to the People

**Like listening to –** all types of music

**Best band/singer ever -** Paul Kelly

**How do you see the environment in 10 years time –** With population pressures increasing, the environment will be ever increasing under greater stress.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time-** Being at the real coal face of environmental change – implementation of on ground rehabilitation works to help correct decades of European settlement and landuse practices?

**Do you have a pet and what is its name -** Boarder Collie Dog "Kate"

**Hobbies.** –farm work - a 1000 ha hobby.

**Ever been overseas -** Germany & Holland

**Have you observed environmental issues we could learn from –** If the Dutch can hold back the sea we should be able to protect our river & streams.

**If you had the chance what would you do to make a difference-** Many hands make light work! Make all individuals take more responsibility for the environment.

**What do you think of our progress with natural resource management –** The outcomes are good, but the progress is slow!

**Where will you holiday this year? -** See hobbies!

## People Power the answer—Poppe Davis

In the 1980s I was travelling in China and was amazed at how quickly major projects were completed.

For instance it took three years to build an *underground city* under Beijing!

"People power," grinned my guide. "You Australians need people power. We have people power in China."

I often think about this when community groups tell me they don't have the resources to get their projects completed.

But it seems that the folk in charge of the Regent Honeyeater Project in the Mid Goulburn Broken catchment have the right idea and have found "people power."

How is this for cooperation?

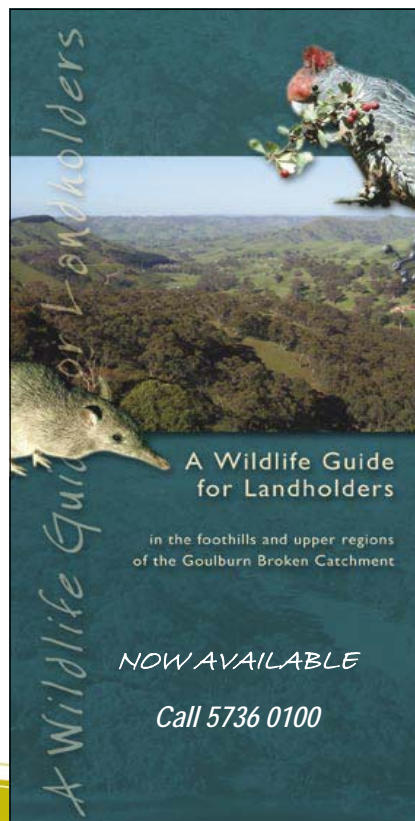
... 830 students plant 16,000 seedlings!

... Primary students propagate 3-4,000 seedlings per day!

Landcare groups can enlist the help of local schools and other community groups to get their trees planted. Many people are just waiting to be asked.

**From the Regent Honeyeater Newsletter**

*"There are many signs that our work is taken seriously by an increasing number of groups both locally and further afield.*



*Many volunteer groups keep coming back year after year, and some even make several visits per year!"*



**Student volunteers plant out a creek bank.**

*"We have had a stream of project tours for university groups, school classes, the national Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team, and even the judges for the state and national 'Tidy Towns' finals."*

*"Big corporations are keen to send their staff to help us plant trees, as part of their commitment to improving the natural environment. For example, BP joined us for a very successful planting day last spring, and we hope to continue the exercise again this year.*

*"Involvement of new landholders every year is probably the most significant indicator of success. It's clear that farmers understand the multiple benefits of this work for the land itself as well as the wildlife. And it's worth saying again, that without their land, there is no project!"*

Philanthropic assistance is often available from local businesses and some programs in the Goulburn Broken region have formed partnerships with local schools and other community groups like Rotary, Apex and Lions.

It seems there are many people who want to be a part of natural resource management projects but just haven't been asked.

If you don't know who to contact in the first instance have a look at your local Shire Community Directory. Most community groups will be listed there.

Remember if the Chinese can build an entire underground city beneath Beijing, we should be able to galvanise enough volunteers to support our regional projects.

**All we really need to do is ASK!**

## Acidic Soils *continued from p. 1*

"More recent data would suggest that even soils in the <500mm rainfall zones are becoming strongly acid in the surface soil profile."

"Estimates suggest that 3 million hectares or 23% of the State's agriculturally productive soils are affected by losses in productivity due to acidity. In addition, soil acidification is likely to have substantial off-site effects on water quantity and quality and as a result, on dryland salinity. The most strongly acidic soils occur in permanent pasture areas. More than half of the affected soils are located in North East Victoria."

According to the Draft Soil Health Strategy Action Plan acid soils are a major barrier to successful implementation of salinity control measures, mainly establishment of deep rooted perennial pasture.

While Goulburn Broken soils are mostly high in acid, rapid decline in pH levels has been evident since land clearing began.

It stands to reason that waters that interact with these soils will have an impact on water quality in our rivers and streams.



The Goulburn Broken Soil Health Strategy Action Plan aims to:

- ... provide an action plan to improve soil management
- ... improve regional awareness of the impacts of soil health
- ... maintain long term production and sustainability of land while minimising negative off-site impacts of poor soil management
- ... Provide land managers with the tools to monitor and manage their soils in a sustainable process.

For more information on Soil Health and the Goulburn Broken Soil Health Strategy- Action Plan, contact the CMA office in Benalla Ph 5761 1611 for a copy of the Draft Action Plan.

## Waterwatch hands over the baton

Tamara Bruce has started work in the upper Goulburn catchment as the new Waterwatch Coordinator.

Tamara will work two days per week from Mansfield where she has been assisting Parks Victoria in the Alpine and Lake Eildon National Parks.

Her recent "Catch a Carp" information day attracted around 40 visitors and netted over 40 carp.

Waterwatch has a team of volunteer supporters who regularly take water samples from rivers and streams to test water quality, turbidity and e coli levels. Special samples are taken after high rainfall events to monitor suspended matter (turbidity), which is an indicator of the level of erosion.

Tamara replaces Jill Breadon from Mansfield, who retired from the position in 2005 after 9 years checking water quality in upper Goulburn rivers and streams.

For further information on Waterwatch call Tamara on 5779 1932 or 0400 936 595.



Tamara presents a prize on the Catch a Carp day.

## Infobites

**2006 is the 50th anniversary of the Eildon Weir wall enlargement completed in 1956.**

*The works to raise the wall involved teams of men working 7days a week for four years.*

*The wall consumed 11,668,000 cubic metres of earth & rock fill.*

*The Weir held 377,000ML water prior to the project and its capacity is now 3,390,000ML. The pondage below the dam holds 5,200ML and stores discharge water from the 135 megawatt power station.*

*The embankment is 10.9 metres wide at the top, 350 metres wide at the base, 84.5 metres high and 1085 metres long. The surface area of the water is 13,840ha.*

*The spillway is 45.72m high, 421 metres long, includes 200,000 cubic metres of concrete and weighs 650,000 tonne.*

*The catchment area is 3,885 km<sup>2</sup>.*

***The 50 year milestone will be celebrated in October 2006.***

## Paddock TREES



*Information brochures available on saving the grand sentinels of farm paddocks across the country.*

*Paddock trees are disappearing fast due to clearing for subdivision and natural attrition.*

*For your information brochure please contact the CMA on*

**5736 0100**

## UGIC Awards 2006 for July

This years Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee *Award for Excellence* and the *Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy* will be awarded at a celebration dinner at Stonelea Resort, Acheron.

Nomination forms for the Award for Excellence will be posted out to Landcare Groups in April and nominations will close on June 17th 2006.

The Award for Excellence recognises a Landcare Committee person who has shown dedication to the Group in excess of

what could be normally expected.

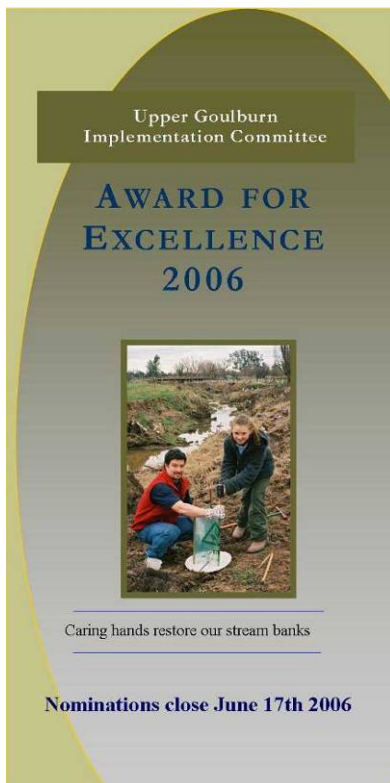
Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy is awarded to a nominee from the community who has shown extraordinary capacity for community engagement in environmental protection.

Nominations will be advertised in the press and brochures will be circulated to community groups, shires, schools and other organisations.

**Landcare Award for Excellence nomination forms available from Ph 5736 0100 or in PDF format from [popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:popped@gbcma.vic.gov.au)**



**2005 Winners**  
Rear: Ben Hardman MP, Leslie Dalziel (Hubert Miller Trophy), Hubert Miller OAM, Front: Steve Mills (Chair, CMA Board), Sophie Panopoulous (Federal Member for Indi), Roger Cook (Award for Excellence).



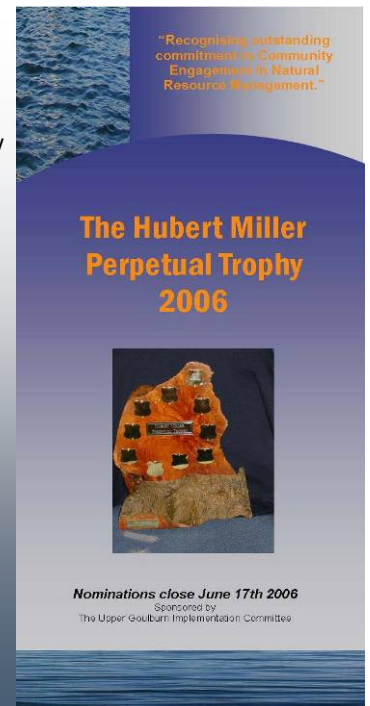
### Nominations open for the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy

If you know of someone in your community who has shown outstanding commitment to community engagement in natural resource management activities in the upper Goulburn catchment, then you should nominate them for the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy.

The Award acknowledges Hubert Miller OAM who has made a life time commitment to natural resource management.

Further information and a nomination form

**Ph 5736 0100**



# UPPER GOULBURN ENVIROED 2006

EnviroEd. The first exhibition in the upper Goulburn catchment to showcase environmental education programs to schools, teachers and the community.

**12 midday to 7pm. Friday July 21st**

**Stonelea Resort.**

**Maroondah Highway and Connelly's Creek Road, Acheron.**

**Followed by the Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee Awards Night and Dinner.**

**For further information contact Katie Brown Ph 5736 0103.**

# Spirit of Place Artworks

The Upper Goulburn Community Artwork Collection has been relocated throughout the Mansfield, Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires during March.

The works are moved to high profile locations every three months to enable as many people as possible to view them.

"Mr & Mrs King Parrot" by Sarah Boehme is hanging in the Tourist Information Centre at Marysville, "Cooee" by Ian McGill is on display at the CMA office in Yea.

Other works are displayed at the Mansfield, Murrindindi and Mitchell Shire foyers, the Mansfield and Kilmore Libraries, and the Seymour Gallery.

The Implementation Committee recommends that readers make an effort to view all the artworks as they tour the catchment.

The Tallarook Art Society Exhibition is held at the Mechanics Institute Hall, Tallarook, in October and planning is already underway for this years exhibition.



"Mr & Mrs King Parrot" by Sarah Boehme



"Cooee" by Ian McGill



## Goulburn Broken CMA Board visits the upper Goulburn

CMA Board members' recent tour of the upper Goulburn area included the King Parrot valley and the fire devastated areas around the Yea Township.

Members were treated to a trip along the King Parrot Creek where exceptional works have been carried out to remove weeds and revegetate the stream banks.

The King Parrot Creek has been subject to a Stream Flow Management Plan in the last two years with a subsequent program of weed management from Hazeldene to Strath Creek.

Work has been complemented by a high level of support from local landowners and the Strath Creek Landcare group, who have run a weed control and revegetation project for at least two years.



Board and UGIC members hear a presentation from Waterways Manager Tom O'Dwyer

The tour travelled through the January bushfire area between Whittlesea Road and the Melba Highway.

Murrindindi Mayor Lyn Gunter and Councillors Janet Gilmore and Leanne Pleash were present and outlined the Fire Recovery Plan for the affected area.

Finally the Board and guests travelled to the Yea Wetlands to view the newly opened boardwalk and walking trails.

Russell Wealands from the Wetlands Committee spoke about the completed works and the link between the Yea Wetland site and the Taungurung people.

The Wetland Walk incorporates a walking bridge across the Yea River, a new wetland boardwalk, opened by Ben Hardman Member for Seymour, and a woodland walk dedicated to the Franklin Family, members of the Taungurung people. Councillor Lyn Gunter opened the Franklin Track.



L to R: Neville Barwick (Chair UGIC), Lyn Gunter (Mayor Murrindindi), Steve Mills (Chair, CMA Board).

## Working with Real Estate Industry

Rowhan Marshall has recently joined the Department of Sustainability and Environment in Benalla as Real Estate Project Officer.

The program is Federally funded through NAP and is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA, the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, Trust for Nature and Landcare Australia.

Rowhan has created workshops for Real Estate Agents and produced a manual for Agents in the Upper and Mid Goulburn Broken catchment area, plus a state wide website.

The project aims to help Agents assess environmental values of properties, advise legislative/regulatory constraints relating to property as well as building a conservation market.

[www.conservationbroker.net.au](http://www.conservationbroker.net.au)

Rowhan Marshall Ph 5761 1611

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## ENVIRO FUND

One round only for 2006  
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 28TH APRIL

Contact Katie Brown for further information. Ph 5736 0103

The GBCMA website is under constant renewal and revision. Keep up with the latest in natural resources and waterways information with

Goulburn Broken CMA at



[www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

## National Vegetation Information System

The recently developed National Vegetation Information System, funded through the Australian Government National Heritage Trust, is a comprehensive database containing detailed and accurate information on Australia's native vegetation. Details and products can be accessed at [www.deh.gov.au/erin/nvis](http://www.deh.gov.au/erin/nvis)

Further information on Australia's vegetation can be accessed at [www.daff.gov.au/forest\\_veg](http://www.daff.gov.au/forest_veg)

An integrated vegetation online dataset, which uses the National Vegetation Information System and other information, allows users to produce customized maps at the regional scale. Further details can be accessed at <http://adl.brs.gov.au/mapserv/intveg/index.html>

## Coming up - Events in Victoria

**Enviro 06 Conference** – to be held at Melbourne, Vic, from 9-11 May. Visit [www.enviroaust.net](http://www.enviroaust.net)

**Project Sustainability Management Workshops** – to be held at Melbourne (20 & 21 April), Visit [www.acea.com.au](http://www.acea.com.au)

**Coast to Coast 2006 Conference** – to be held at Melbourne, Vic, from 22 May – 6 June. Visit [www.iceaustralia.com/coasttocoast2006/](http://www.iceaustralia.com/coasttocoast2006/) Also, to be held in conjunction with the Coast to Coast 2006 Conference, a **Research for Coastal Management Symposium** is to be held in Melbourne, Vic, on 26 May. Visit [www.coastal.crc.org.au/symposium2006/index.html](http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/symposium2006/index.html)

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**The Tallarook Arboretum was officially opened on April 1st.**

**The Arboretum is in Main Road opposite the Mechanics Institute.**

## Waterway Working Group Report

The Upper Goulburn Waterway Working Group toured the Hughes Creek area recently to inspect newly sighted colonies of Macquarie Perch.

A survey of Macquarie Perch will be conducted in the upper Goulburn catchment over the next month by Janet Pritchard from the Dept of Sustainability and Environment using fyke nets, bait-traps and backpack electrofishing to determine fish numbers.

Sightings of Macquarie Perch in Hughes Creek are a good indicator of stream health and water quality with good prospects for other native fish in the area.

Streams to be surveyed include King Parrot Creek and Yea River, Hughes Creek, Sugarloaf Creek, the Broken River and Hollands Creek in the Mid Goulburn Broken catchment.



Electrofishing count & release.

## Waterway Revegetation Program

A concentrated program of woody weed management on upper Goulburn waterways in recent months has resulted in the successful revegetation of banks where introduced species have been removed.

Willow management is a priority program for maintenance of water health on all upper Goulburn rivers and streams and contributes to habitat improvement for native animals and fish.

The weed management and revegetation program has been in progress throughout the catchment on upper Goulburn tributaries including the Jamieson, Howqua and Delatite Rivers and the King Parrot Creek.

Janette Currie, *Upper Goulburn Vegetation Officer*, says that the opportunity to link sites with landholders support and restore



Weed management has opened up the river bank on the upper reaches of the Goulburn River.

native vegetation corridors has so many benefits.

"Restoring native species of trees, grasses and groundcovers will improve wildlife corridors and return the rivers back to life."

For information on Revegetation Grants call 5736 0100.



Native revegetation on Goulburn River.



Removal of exotics allows for better access to waterways for recreational purposes.

## GOOD BAITING PRACTICES ASSIST RABBIT CONTROL

As rabbit and fox baiting programs get underway, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is urging landholders not to take short cuts on baiting programs.

DPI Sub-Project Manager for Pest Management, Jason Riethmuller, said landholders should follow the DPI recommendations on good baiting practice when conducting rabbit control programs.

"DPI staff have noticed through their contact with landholders that some are not following correct baiting practices," Mr Riethmuller said.

"This could seriously compromise the effectiveness of the program."

"The Directions for Use are put in place to ensure the best results are achieved from a baiting program, in a manner that is safe for users, neighbours and the environment. It is very important that if you are going to bait, you do it well."

*Mr Riethmuller said rabbits were a threat to 84 different species of flora and fauna nationally, including 13 mammals and 54 plant species.*

"Poor baiting practices can be a further threat to some native animals."

"If free feed and bait are not laid according to directions, it could result in rabbits not being exposed to the bait, while increasing exposure of native animals to poisonous bait," he said.

"Free feeding (with non-poisonous bait) allows landholders to monitor for signs of native animals so they can avoid laying poisoned bait in these areas."

Mr Riethmuller said free feeding also allowed the landholder to estimate the correct amount of bait to lay for the rabbits on their property, while getting the rabbits used to going to the feed-trail to eat.

"Now is the best time to undertake rabbit reduction programs, which are vital for economic and environmental sustainability."

"Rabbits currently cost Australian landholders an estimated \$200 million a year in agricultural losses, and are estimated to cost Victoria's agriculture industry over \$24 million every year."

Mr Riethmuller stressed that baiting alone should not be considered by landholders to be a way of solving their rabbit problems.



"Continual warren destruction and harbour management, complemented by baiting and fumigation, are the most effective techniques for achieving long term control."



"If landholders begin to rely solely on baiting for their rabbit control, without taking an integrated approach, rabbits will be the big winners in the long run," he said.

For more information on an integrated rabbit management program contact your local DPI Pest Management Officer or to make an appointment for bait supply contact the '1080' hotline on

**1300 10 1080.**

*Courtesy Andrew Crocos, Dept Primary Industry press release.22/3/06*

### LATE BREAKING NEWS

Bear-skin Fescue was gazetted (April 5 2006) for permanent declaration as a State prohibited weed.



### Bush Returns update

Seventeen landholders have been successful in their bid for Bush Returns agreements in the project's second round.

The future of Bush Returns depends on funding and plans are already in place to secure the required funds for a third round.

Work is also in progress for the integration of Bush Returns principles in other natural resource management programs.

Bush Returns encourages natural regeneration of native species in areas where there is a good source of naturally dispersible seed.

For information contact Carla Miles

**Ph 5736 0100**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The **Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP Act) 1994** is the governing legislation that sets the requirements for control of noxious weeds

"In relation to his or her land a land owner must take all reasonable steps to -

...(d) eradicate regionally prohibited weeds; and

...(e) prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds; and

...(2) A land owner must take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of regionally controlled weeds and establish pest animals on a roadside that adjoins the land owners land."

**In short, roadside weeds are the responsibility of the adjacent LANDOWNER.**

### SALT WEEK

May 7th -14th.

Salt Week will be run throughout the month of May in the Goulburn Broken catchment, although the official week for National Salt Week is May 7-14th.

Schools throughout the catchment will participate in

- ... Outdoor activities,
- ... Classroom presentations
- ... Water sample collection
- ... Salinity testing
- ... A Taste of Salt
- ... ..and more.

For information on Salt Week contact Poppe Davis  
**Ph 5736 0108**

# Food for thought

## Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

Entries are now open for the 2006 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes for science awards for research into environmental and sustainability issues facing Australia. Prizes for 2006 consist of 20 awards worth over \$200,000 under 4 categories – Research, Leadership and Innovation, Education and Science Communication. **Closing date is Friday 5 May.** Further information including registration (enter yourself or nominate someone) can be accessed at [www.amonline.net.au/eureka/](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/)

## 2006 Engineers Australia National Salinity Prize

Supported by the Murray Darling Basin Commission and NAP, Engineers Australia is now inviting entries for the challenge to win the third Engineers Australia National Salinity Prize of \$30,000 for a new technology or other practical outcome to address the issue of salinity across Australia.

## Closing date is Thursday 20 April.

Further information including selection criteria and conditions of entry can be accessed at [www.engineersaustralia.org.au](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au) or contact John Bright 0407 234 490 or [jbright@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:jbright@engineersaustralia.org.au)

## Climate Connect 2006 National Forum

Climate Connect 2006 is a National Forum - *Connecting People to Climate Science* showcasing the goals, activities and achievements of the Managing Climate Variability Program. It aims to improve the uptake of cutting edge research to help farmers and land managers make better decisions to manage for Australia's variable climate. It is being held in Adelaide on 29-30 March. Further information can be accessed at [www.managingclimate.gov.au](http://www.managingclimate.gov.au)

## Environmental Dates for April/May 2006

Earth Day 22 April  
International Biodiversity Day 22 May

## Banksia Environmentalist Awards

Nominations are now being called for the Banksia Environmentalist Awards – the Prime Minister's Award for Environmentalist of the Year which rewards achievements in environmental protection and education. See media release at [www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr27feb06.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr27feb06.html) Further information can be accessed at [www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=10](http://www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=10)

**Closing date is Wednesday 10 May.**



# UGIC STRUCTURE EXPLAINED

